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From Thursday April 15. to Monday April 19. 1697.

Westminster, April 16.

THE King came this day to the House of Peers, attended with the usual Solemnity, and being in His Royal Robes seated on the Throne, and the House of Commons being sent for up, His Majesty gave the Royal Assent to

An Act for laying a Duty upon Leather for the Term of Three Years, and making other Provision, for answering the Deficiencies, as well of the late Duties upon Coals and Culm, as for Paying the Annuities upon the Lottery and for Lives, charged on the Tunnage of Ships and the Duties upon Salts.

An Act for Granting to His Majesty certain Duties upon Malt, Mum, Sweets, Cyder and Perry, as well towards Carrying on the War against France, *as for the necessary Expence of His Majesty's Houshold, and other Occasions.*

An Act for Granting to His Majesty a farther Subsidy of Tunnage and Poundage upon Merchandizes Imported, for the Term of Two Years and Three Quarters, and an additional Land-Tax, for One Year, for Carrying on the War against France.

An Act for Licensing Hawkers and Pedlars for a farther Provision, for Payment of the Interest of the Transport Debt, for the Reducing of Ireland.

An Act for the lessening the Duty upon Tin, and Granting an Equivalent for the same by a Duty upon Drugge.

An Act to make perpetual and more effectual an Act, Intituled, An Act to prevent Delays at the Quarter Sessions of the Peace.

An Act to Inforce the Act for the Increase and Incouragement of Seamen

An Act for Raising the Militia for the Year One Thousand Six Hundred Ninety Seven, although the Month's Pay formerly advanced, be not Repaid.

An Act for Explaining and Inforcing the Act for Paving and Cleansing the Streets within the Cities of London *and* Westminster, *and Borough of* Southwark, *and Weekly Bills of Mortality, and Streets adjoining thereunto, and for widening the Street at the South-End of* London-Bridge.

An Act for the farther Incouragement of the Manufacture of Lustrings and Alamodes within this Realm, and for the better Preventing the Importation of the same.

An Act for the Repair of the Peers of Bridlington, *alias* Burlington, *in the East-Riding of the County of* York.

An Act for the better Observation of the Course anciently used in the Receipt of Exchequer.

An Act for the easier obtaining Partitions of Lands in Coparcenary, Joint-Tenancy, and Tenancy in Common.

An Act for Supplying some Defects in the Laws, for the better Relief of the Poor of this Kingdom.

An Act to Restrain the Number and Ill Practises of Brokers and Stock-Jobbers.

An Act for the better Preventing the Counterfeiting the Current Coin of this Kingdom.

An Act for the more effectual Relief of Creditors, in Cases of Escapes, and for Preventing Abuses in Prisons and pretended Priviledged Places.

And to Three Private Acts.

After which His Majesty made a most Gracious Speech to both Houses, which follows:

My Lords and Gentlemen,

HAving given My Assent to the several Bills you Presented to Me, I am now to Return you My hearty Thanks for what you have done this Session, which has been carried on with great Prudence, Temper and Affection.

At the Opening of the Session, I told you how Sensible I was of the Difficulties to be Struggl'd with, which were of such a Nature, that I will freely own the Hopes I had of Our being Able to Overcome them were Founded only upon the Wisdom and Zeal of so good a Parliament.

My Expectation has been fully Answer'd; You Entred upon the Business with so much Chearfulness, Proceeded so Unanimously, and have at last brought things to such a Conclusion, That We may Hope to Carry on the War with Success, in Case Our Enemies do not think it their Interest to Agree to an Honourable Peace: And so Effectual a Provision being made for Supplying the Deficiencies of former Funds (which is the best Foundation for Reestablishing of Credit) I doubt not but in a short time it will have a very happy Effect, to the universal Ease and Satisfaction of My People.

The Circumstances of Affairs making it Necessary for Me to be out of the Kingdom for some time, I shall take Care to leave the Administration of the Government, during My Absence, in the Hands of such Persons as I can Depend upon.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I have nothing more to Ask of you, but that you would carry down the same good Disposition into your several Countries which you have Express'd in all the Proceedings of this Session.

Then the Lord Keeper, by His Majesty's Command, Prorogued the Parliament to *Thursday* the 13th day of *May* next.

Pembroke, April 11. On the 9th instant came into this Harbour His Majesty's Ship the *Chester*, with several Vessels under her Convoy, having Convoyed several others up the *Bristol* Channel.

Plimouth, April 13. Yesterday came into this Port a *Danish* Ship call'd the *Love* from *Copenhagen*, and the *Endeavour* laden with Fruit from *Sevill*, and bound to *London*.

Dartmouth, April 13. The *Reformation* of *Topsham* arrived here this day from *Lisbon*, whence she came about 5 Weeks ago in company of 130 sail